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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,438	02/24/2004	Sang Dang Tang	108298679US1	8502
25096	7590	11/28/2005	EXAMINER	
PERKINS COIE LLP			CAO, PHAT X	
PATENT-SEA			ART UNIT	
P.O. BOX 1247			PAPER NUMBER	
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247			2814	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Am

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,438	TANG, SANG DANG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phat X. Cao	2814	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 34-39 and 46-52 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40,44 and 45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/24/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The cancellation of claims 1-33 in Paper filed on 2/24/04 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 46 and 52 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - in claim 46, line 5, "comprising –" should be changed to "comprising:".
 - In claim 52, line 5, "comprising – " should be changed to "comprising:".
 - In claim 52, line 17, "the conductive line" should be changed to "the conductive bit line".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2814

4. Claims 40 and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al (US. 6,376,380).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding claim 40, Tang (Figs. 23-26) discloses a microelectronic device, comprising: a workpiece including a substrate 12, a plurality of active areas 16 in the substrate, and a dielectric layer 20 over the active areas 16, the dielectric layer 20 having an upper surface; a plurality of bit line contacts 34 (Fig. 25 and column 4, lines 30-32) in the dielectric layer 20 contacting first portions of the active areas 16; a plurality of cell plugs 60 (Fig. 26 and column 5, lines 1-5) in the dielectric layer 20 contacting second portions of the active areas 16; and a conductive, elongated bit line 44 or 50 (Fig. 23 and column 5, lines 1-5) embedded in an upper portion of the bit line contacts 34 (Fig. 25) and portions of the dielectric layer 20 between the bit line contacts 34 (see Fig. 26), wherein the bit line 44 extends between the cell plugs 60 (Fig. 26).

Regarding claim 44, Tang's Fig. 25 further discloses that the dielectric layer 20 has a top surface, and the bit line 44 has a top surface coplanar with the top surface of the dielectric layer 20.

Regarding claim 45, Tang's Fig. 25 also discloses that the device further comprises a shallow trench isolation structure 14 adjacent to the first portion of the active areas 16, and the conductive bit line 44 is superimposed over a portion of the shallow trench isolation structure 14 but not over the first active area 16.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 34-39 and 46-52 are allowed.

The prior art fails to disclose all the limitations recited in the base claims, including the limitation of having a dielectric spacer formed between the conductive bit line and cell plugs adjacent to the conductive bit line.

6. Claims 41-43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record fails to disclose all the limitations recited in the above claims, including a dielectric spacer formed between the bit line and the cell plugs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phat X. Cao whose telephone number is 571-272-1703.

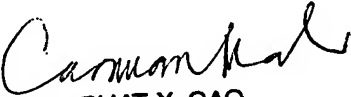
The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2814

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PC
November 23, 2005


PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER